

Series of *Coenonympha tiphon* from various localities were sold in lots of about 50 to 65, and fetched from 30s. to £4 10s. All the various forms were represented, except the Welsh. There were 15 *Chrysophanus dispar* sold, the prices being £7, £4 15s., £6 6s., £9 9s., £8 10s., £6, £5 15s., £6 6s., £6, £5 15s., £11, £5 10s., £6, £4 10s., and 55s. for each, according to condition. Among the *C. phlaeas*, lot 365, the specimen with large confluent spots from the "Webb" Collection, figured in Barrett, brought £10, a depreciation of £2. There were very long series of all the "blues" each containing the usual remarkable colour shades and extreme underside variations. Lot 402, an underside of *P. icarus* from the "Farn" Collection, fetched £6, and another of the same species from Ventnor, lot 405, £4. Another Lot 406 ("Webb") 35s. These at last sale realised £7, £5 10s., and £4 10s. respectively. Lot 415, a true gynandromorph of *Agriades coridon*, only made £5 10s. the exact price it reached at the "Webb" Sale, the low price being accounted for by the want of freshness of the specimen. Lot 417, a fine and very perfect gynandromorph, left side male, right side partly female, taken at Reigate in 1914 by Mr. Quarrington, fetched the good price of £11 10s.

Lot 457, a specimen with buff margins, rayed, etc., reached £9. Lot 433, ab. *syngrapha*, dusted with black and brown on one side, fetched £2 5s. Lot 445, an underside with deep black basal dashes and bands and spotless, brought £4 4s., and an almost entirely white obsolete underside, £2 15s. Leaden grey *Agriades thetis* (*bellargus*) fetched from 26s. to 30s. each, and a beautiful streaked underside, which brought £15 15s. when last sold, was on this occasion obtained for the low price of £6 10s. A true gynandromorph of *Celastrina argiolus* was bought for £7, it having reached £14 14s. when sold at auction two years ago. A cream coloured *Agriades comma* went for 25s., and an underside without markings, figured by Barrett, 35s.

Owing to the late hour at which the sale concluded several of the buyers from the country had to leave to catch trains, and consequently the competition for the later lots was not so keen, and many good bargains were obtained among the "Blues." The 68 drawer cabinet brought the remarkable price of one hundred guineas. I understand that some more *Chrysophanus dispar* will be sold at the sale of the second portion of the collection on February 30th.—S.G.C.-R.

Life-History of *Pararge hiera*.

By A. SIMMONS.

When collecting at ChamoniX during June, 1922, I found *Pararge hiera* locally abundant. They were about on both sides of the valley, up the path to La Flégère, and also on the opposite side towards Montanvers, the latter, however, was probably the most productive ground, the best spot being a rough bank just where the Montanvers railway leaves the second tunnel, at an altitude of 4,500 ft. They were particularly fond of settling on dandelion flowers, but unfortunately were somewhat worn, so I caged two females to obtain ova.

The weather was somewhat cold and broken, but eggs were laid on the blades of grass from June 9th to 16th. The eggs are spherical and creamy white in colour, changing two days before hatching to nearly black. The first larvae appeared on June 20th, and are a dirty white

colour, with a black head, which is very prominent and seems much too large for the size of the larva. After the first moult, which commenced on June 29th, the ground colour changed to a uniform light green, and they lost their black head, which became a little lighter in shade than the general colour, but was still very pronounced.

The second moult took place on July 10th, and this produced very little change except that six very faint white stripes appeared, three on each side, but were hardly perceptible.

The third and final moult took place on July 19th, and again there was very little change in the colour, but the stripes were now more distinct, the head, however, was still very prominent, giving the larva an unhealthy, starved appearance, but this gradually disappeared as they neared pupation.

When full fed the larva is 28mm. long, of a delicate green colour, a little lighter than grass. It is of the usual Satyrid form, tapering towards the anal extremity, with three nearly white stripes on each side; the two on the dorsal area are very close together, one near the spiracles and one midway between the two. The head is much lighter in shade, and though not now so prominent it still appears too large for the larva. It rests in a straight position on its food plant, and when annoyed falls and coils itself into a ring.

When full fed the larvae all attached themselves to the top of the cage and changed to light green pupae, almost the same shade as the larvae. They hung head downwards without any girth or band, and in no case did they attach themselves to the stems of grass. The first pupa appeared on August 3rd, and the last on August 23rd, en route for England, producing a total of 104. The larvae were quiet contented little creatures, bearing their confinement well, and took readily to any grass, but were fed chiefly on *Agropyrum repens*, and I do not think that I lost above four out of the whole brood. They fed both by night and day and no attempt was made to hide during daylight, in fact they seemed to enjoy the late afternoon sun.

I thought that I should get them out during August as a second brood, but not one has showed any signs of changing, and the whole lot are evidently going to hibernate as pupae, a somewhat unusual habit for a Satyrid.

It seems, therefore, that from 4,000 to 5,000 ft. *hiera* is only single brooded, and if a second brood does occur it may be only partial in favourable seasons, and probably at a much lower altitude.

I left Chamonix on June 29th, staying about a fortnight at Martigny, and going on to Bérival on July 15th. I can claim, therefore (except the fortnight at Martigny, which was not very hot, only on four days did the temperature rise above 70°), to have fed the larvae under quite natural conditions, Bérival 5,000 ft. being about the same altitude as where the parents were taken at Chamonix, and this may perhaps account for my success in rearing such a large number.

Description of Pupa of *Pararge hiera*.

By G. T. BETHUNE-BAKER, F.L.S., F.Z.S., F.E.S.

Mr. A. Simmons has asked me to describe the pupa of *Pararge hiera* which he found commonly at Chamonix. Since I wrote the description I have had three imagines emerge out of six chrysalids sent me.